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Washington, Jefferson & Co

Genet

1793



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WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON

AND

“CITIZEN” GENET.

1793.

A SET OF SEVRÉS CHINA.

George Clinton Genet.

E 313

G 32

A TEA SET OF SÈVRES CHINA.

Loaned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, City of New York, by
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clinton Genet, December, 1902.

Soft Paste (Pâte-tendre) China of the Royal Factory of Sèvres, France, 1778, 1785. The factory was the private property of the Crown. Its product was not for sale, except by Royal permission, and then at a very high price. At the above period three of the sisters of Genet, afterwards known in American History as Citizen Genet, were in the service of Queen Marie Antoinette, the eldest Madame Genet Campan, as first lady of the Bed Chamber, two others, younger, as ladies in waiting or of the Queen's circle of young ladies. Wishing to present their mother with a tea set of that china the Queen gave them permission to buy each a piece for several years. In this way this set was obtained. Upon the death of his mother it came by inheritance to her son, and in the year 1800 was sent by Madam Campan to her brother in America by Mr. James Monroe, fifth President of the United States, upon his return from a mission to France. It is the subject of an interesting historical correspondence between Mr. Monroe and Genet. It has been in the Genet family ever since and has become the property of the present owner, Mr. George Clinton Genet.

Correspondence.

BETWEEN

"CITIZEN" GENET and JAMES MONROE, relative to
this Tea Set in Sévres China.

Genet to Mr. Monroe.

Jamaica, L. I., N. Y. July 12, 1800.

Dear Sir:

In reading over lately some old letters of my sister Campan, I have found that she had taken the liberty to charge you with sending to me a box of Sévres China. That little box must be with your baggage and my wife thinks she remembers that Mrs. Monroe told her, on her passing through New York, that it would arrive immediately. Since that period we have heard no news of it. We join in begging you to inform us what has become of it. I have heard with profound joy of your election to the Government of Virginia, perhaps you will learn also with some interest that the Directory of the French Republic has recalled me, as I ought to have been in 1794, in a most honorable and consoling manner.

Mr. Monroe to Genet.

Richmond, July 30, 1800.

Dear Sir:

I lately received your favor of the 12th inst. and was much gratified to hear of yours and the health of your lady. Mrs. Monroe is now in the country whither she was carried by an attention that was due to the health of our youngest child which as it was cutting teeth and had the whooping cough it was necessary to move to a purer air.



The box of porcelain which was entrusted to us by our most estimable friend Mrs. Campan for you was carried with our luggage to Albemarle where it has since remained unpacked. I should have forwarded it to you long since, but declined it lest in the then infatuated state of the public mind, it might be considered as the proof of a conspiracy against the Government and of a treasonable correspondence with France, &c. I shall however hasten to have it brought here and forwarded to you to the care of some friend in New York of whom you shall be advised.

I am happy to hear your Government has recalled you to its own and the bosom of your friends. As a friend to free government, your name will be recorded in the history of the present day, and your patient submission to the censures you incurred in the station of a frugal and industrious farmer, will be a proof of the uprightness of your heart and integrity of your conduct while a victim to your principles. I considered it my duty not to injure your fame or detract from your merit while I was in France, but to anticipate and prevent as far as I could, any ill effects which your collision with our government might produce in the French Councils. It was natural had you returned that you should have gone into a detail with your government, of the incidents attending your mission, and more than probable that the communications you would have made to it, would have increased the jealousy which it then entertained of the views of ours. It was my desire and endeavor to dissipate completely all those jealousies and to bring the French Government into a system of conduct towards us through the whole of the war great and magnanimous, which would have done it honor to the latest posterity. I had no particular reason to conclude you would not have united in such a plan other than the strength of human passions and the knowledge I had, you thought you

were injured; hence I was persuaded your return at the time might be injurious, and was in fact averse to it, but I did not oppose it by any direct or indirect agency. But such was the state of things growing out of my standing with the principal members of the government, that they would take no step in it without speaking to me on it. When the subject was opened I was always silent, testifying in favor of your integrity only, and it was inferred, and truly I was opposed to your return at the time. The whole of this has passed and is only recollected as interesting to ourselves. I too have had my day of suffering. I served with zeal the cause of liberty and my country and was requited by every act of injustice which could be rendered me short of imprisonment or death. This too has passed, though it can never be recollected but with disgust.

Be so kind as to make my best regards to your lady, to which I add with pleasure those of Mrs. M., who will be happy to hear of her and believe me

Sincerely your friend and servant,

JAMES MONROE.

Genet to Monroe.

Jamaica South, August 10, 1800.

Sir:

I have received by post the letter you had the goodness to write me the 30th of July. It contains some things which have instructed me, flattered me and filled me with admiration for your talents, with respect for your candor, with esteem for your patriotism, and with contempt for those who by a foolish reason of state have had the sterile cruelty to abandon a faithful agent to inquietude and to the rancor of a foreign government. But there is found in that letter a suspicion that you have nourished, that others of your fellow citizens have without doubt conceived, and which wounds me too deeply for me not to hasten to destroy it. You have feared that if I return to France, the force of human passions and the sense of the injuries with which I have been overwhelmed might hinder me from joining those who sought to carry France to adopt magnanimous and generous measures towards this country. Imbued with that idea you have adroitly let the desire be blunted and extinguished, which was shown to you to repair the atrocious injustice which had made me fly a country which was then ferocious, to seek repose here in obscurity and isolation. You were in an error, sir, permit me to try to convince you of it, by the simple exposition of the following facts: More attached than to my own glory to the success of the liberal, magnanimous treaty of which I had suggested, revised, proposed the bases, and of which the negotiation has not yet been seriously intrusted to any hands but mine, even at the time when my passions were irritated in every sense by contradictions and chagrins, and when my disgust was most exalted, *I have buried in secret the most justifying parts of my instructions, in order that the appearance of the wrongs, if there existed any, might*

fall on me alone. I have offered myself the first in my official reports to France as a victim to calm your Washington supposing that he wanted only one virtue to be truly great, that of knowing how to pardon.

When the members of the Committee of Public Safety allured by the baits contained in the official letter of Mr. Jefferson, had despoiled me without examination, without inquest of the recompense which I had acquired by eighteen years of service in the career of Foreign affairs; by a civic conduct since the commencement of the Revolution; and to complete the atrocity, had caused me to be demanded of your government for fear that my blood might not be mingled with that of those prescribed by them, I held to the satellites of those monsters who unveiled that infamy to me, the language dictated to me by an imperturable attachment to the union of our two nations, and I excited them to fulfil their sanguinary orders if they believed it would be useful. When filled with troubles and fatigued with storms I hid myself from the world I never ceased to form wishes with all my heart for the maintenance of harmony. Finally when the rude discourses pronounced in your Senate when the inhospitable laws which have been the result of them, offered to the French Republicans scattered on this continent, no other alternative but flight, chains or death, I addressed a letter to the Directory which was carried to it, by one of my former co-operators, to engage it to cast a fraternal look at my position; and as unfortunately I could not speak of myself without speaking of politics also, I profited by that occasion to say to those chiefs of the Empire, not to listen to *their resentments*, and to seek in *moderation alone* the means of ameliorating the future. My letter traced by a pen of which time has taken care to make the veracity known, was read attentively. It has not injured those who have been since holding the language of

peace, and if I deceive myself with that illusion my heart refuses to destroy it, it is too sweet.

May these details preserve to me your friendship; may they give you some regret for having been obliged by your situation to contribute to the loss of seven years of the life of a man to the cause of liberty, who cherishes her always, and to efface from your mind even the slightest doubt of my attachment to the good American people, who, distinguishing the public from the private man, have covered me with the ægis of her laws, while my nation, which I had served with all my faculties, wanted them to be violated, to punish me by an assassination for having, obeyed her supreme will.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my most sincere and respectful devotion.

GENET.

P. S. Sept. 20th.

This letter was written, sir, when my wife having become a mother for the third time had fallen dangerously ill, and all my children were ill at the same time. They have been restored to me, but being entirely occupied with them I had forgotten to transmit my answer to you. Madame Campan to whom I have just written will be very sensible of your remembrance. I have received no news of her since they have essayed by honorable decrees and caressing expressions to replace the bread which tyrants have snatched from my innocence. If I were younger I should cross the ocean, but, having become a husband and father I can leave nothing to chance.

If you should see Mr. Giles, my dear sir, please to say to him that I shall never forget all his kindness to me, and his precious confessions in the winter of 1793-4, but that I wonder how it came to pass that the 25th of May, 1797, he thought proper to lift up the tomahawk and the hatchet against my political ghost in congress. Had I not tormentors enough! Another citizen has not spared me much

more in a later session, but the Revolutionary Tribunal of his heart involved all of my successors in the sentence, and we were jointly accused of being totally deficient in talent and diplomatic skill, a judgment which if swallowed down by the French Government as mine was by Robespierre might have deprived them of their living. I could mention also a number of Republican scribblers Logomachies Polemics Orations Characters Electioneering stuff and pamphlets proudly decorated with the majestic title of History which would have deeply corroded my wounds had I possessed less philosophy. But as it is said in the song of the dying Indian "The son of Alknoma has scorned to complain."

Genet to Monroe.

Jamaica, N. Y. January 1803.

Dear Sir:

The very prudent motive which prevented you under the administration of Mr. Adams to forward to me the set of China you had the kindness to bring from France existing in all probability no more, I take the freedom to put you in mind of that small object before your departure for the continent, and to request you to send it to New York to the care of John Broome, Hanover Square. Though sensible of the injustice I had suffered, but mistrusting my generosity you have, my dear sir, employed your influence to prevent my undeceived fellow citizens to recall me honorably after your government had obtained from their ignorance the punishment of my faithfulness to their awful orders, I wish you well. I have heard your appointment with pleasure and I hope your new embassy will be crowned with success for the good of this country, the last refuge of true liberty.

GENET.

Monroe to Genet.

Washington, Feb. 5, 1803.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 29 ult. and have the pleasure to inform you that when lately in Richmond I sent round the Box of China belonging to you, with some boxes of my own to New York to the care of Mr. Gelston, the collector. On my arrival at New York which I expect will be about the 13th it shall be separated from my baggage and placed as you direct. You have I think, very much mistaken the import of a former letter from me to you relative to my conduct toward you while in France. You certainly entertain an impression very different from the fact, be the letter what it may. Nothing ever escaped me or was to be inferred from my deportment unfriendly to you. Your nearest connections can satisfy you on that point. I want to state to you that my situation laid a restraint on me, so as to prevent my promoting the object of your recall and to impose a reserve in certain cases when had I been free to act, the good opinion I entertained of your moral and political principles might have suggested a greater freedom of action. I never mentioned you in my life, but in terms of respect as a friend of your country and of liberty. I found by your former letter that you had mistaken my idea on the subject and would have put you right, had I not wished not to multiply communications in the then state of the Post office (according to report) on a subject which it would be easy in a short conversation to place on its true ground. I hope to see you in New York and will be happy to bear your commands to your friends in France. Mrs. Monroe is now in New York. With respectful regards to Mrs. Genet, I am,

Sincerely yours,

JAS. MONROE.

**Samuel Adams, Governor of Massachusetts,
to Genet.**

Boston, Oct. 22d, 1793.

Sir:

Our late worthy and excellent Governor, John Hancock, having been taken from us by death, Citizen Dennery on his arrival delivered to me your letter directed to the Governor, which on the melancholy event it became my duty to receive. I perceive he is appointed by the Executive Council to succeed Citizen Letomb who is now on his passage to France. Had the late Governor been living he would have received the new Consul as he did the Vice Consul with great regard and friendship. I do assure you that I shall observe the same line of conduct as he did from a respect due to your recommendation of him, and my attachment to him as an officer under the French Republic. I hope he will soon receive his Exequator which is necessary to be entered on our public records, and I shall then in form duly acknowledge him.

I am satisfied in my own mind that you are possessed of feelings of warm affection towards our country, as well as your own, and I rejoice to observe your expectations that your conduct being made public, will evidently appear to have been right in the eyes of all reasonable men, and will make those ashamed whose prejudices have caused them with great industry to load you with abuse and calumny.

I earnestly pray that your residence in the U. S. as Minister Plenipotentiary may render you personally happy, being already persuaded it will greatly tend to promote the common cause of liberty and the rights of men.

I am sir with great respect and esteem,

SAMUEL ADAMS.

Citizen Genet,

Minister Plenipotentiary.

Note. Samuel Adams and John Hancock were the only men proscribed by the British Govt. during the American Revolution.

Judge Burke of South Carolina to Genet.

Charleston, Feb. 16, 1794.

Citizen Minister:

About the beginning of September last I wrote you a long letter to which I never received any answer. I sent it by a vessel bound to Philadelphia, and as I know the vessel arrived and not hearing from you, I take it for granted that my letter has been *arrested*.

On the 14 of November I wrote a second letter to you by Commodore Gillon who was going to Congress and here again I was disappointed, for he went no further than Columbia, being detained there by some embarrassments in which he is involved with our legislature. He is now at his seat in the country, one hundred and forty miles from this, and though I wrote to him three different times to return my letter that I might forward it, yet I wrote in vain.

The newspapers from Philadelphia have announced to us, that the arts made use of by the administration against you, both in America and France, have been but too successful. We have in Charleston one thing in common with her sister cities of Philadelphia and New York, that is a ministerial party toned to perfect unison with a strong British party, both together celebrating at this moment a sort of jubilee or triumph for the victory supposed to be obtained over you—while the few republicans in town, and the mass of the inhabitants of the country are sincerely afflicted for it: still hoping however that your countrymen will not pass to any measures of disapprobation respecting your conduct, without first giving you an opportunity to defend yourself; for should they be too precipitate in this business the misfortune that will spring from it, will not affect you alone. If they condemn you unheard, and

that on the accusation of men who are your enemies, only because the energy and republicanism of your character had spread, as you passed through this country, an enthusiasm for French principles, and diverted into the old Republican channel the stream of that rapid fervent tide, of political idolatry by which we were borne away before your arrival. If this should work a prejudice to your standing and reputation, it will hold out to your successor but poor encouragement to pursue a steady line of independence, amidst the strong undercurrents of domestic and foreign court interests and court parties in Philadelphia. Let your successor be who he may, I will answer for one thing that if he will only land at Savannah or Charleston, and travelling on as you did to see the country and know the people, is found on his arrival at Philadelphia to possess energy of head and Republicanism in his heart, I will venture to predict that he will be made to pass through a ministerial purgatory, as you have. It will only remain for some other Jay or King to let off another sky-rocket, which although but momentary will answer its end, by gleaming upon him for a while the resentment of an abused public. As for yourself be assured that as a Patriotic Republican and a man of talents, you have in South Carolina the veneration and affections of that great body of men who in our late conflict for overturning Royalty have on many honorable and hard trials given good proof how warm was their love for Republican Liberty. Nor have they like some who you and I know, changed their old tenets with their recent good fortune. They do not see with the half way Republican Mr. Jefferson, the great criminality in your landing in South Carolina, on the contrary, they view in it a great deal of good to both countries, for had you gone directly to Philadelphia, you would very naturally have judged of the patriotism of the many by the sample of a

few—You would never have known how congenial is the Republicanism of Frenchmen to that of Americans in general—You might have remained in Philadelphia for years, a stranger to a fact with which you are now pretty intimate, that the people and some that we could name are in political opinions and projects, the very antipodes to one another. The great mass of our citizens believe that you instead of suffering *Kingly Purgation at New York* deserve to be a member of a Republican Millemium, for one piece of good service which you did us here in the South. The popular enthusiasm for liberty, which bore us through the war lay buried since the peace owing partly to that weariness and repose which naturally succeed great exertion; but principally to that lethargy and stupefaction that always has in every Republic and ever will creep on, when idolatry for a popular citizen becomes a general disease—Out of this we were happily awakened by your tour from Charleston. Although your progress was rapid, yet bearing as you did, not only the public character of your nation, but also that of its Republicanism, this together with the energy of your own spirit by a sort of electrical transmission of kindred impulse, rekindled in us the honest, ardent feelings of 1776—and though this be a mighty offense of yours with some of our leading men, yet a little time, and better information will develope to the patriots of your Republic, how much you merit tributes of praise and not prosecution for your services in America.

Adieu Citizen and accept my best wishes and warmest esteem.

A. BURKE.

Citizen Genet,

Minister Plenipotentiary,

from the French Republic.

**John Martin a distinguished lawyer and
Politician of Baltimore to Genet.**

I am so strongly impressed with the impropriety of printing your instructions and correspondence that I cannot rest contented with the verbal advice I gave you this morning to drop the idea. There is one sentence alone of moment to be publicly known and that is where you are expressly forbid to take any steps which may give umbrage or create jealousy of an interference with our Constitution—the publication of this will show that you must have been a madman (in which case your country would not have employed you) or a fool (which your enemies are not so fortunate as to find you), to have acted the part they impute to you. The publication of the rest can only gratify those, and they are unfortunately too many here, who detest you, your country and your cause alike—these peoples' prejudices are in nature, confirmed by ignorance, you can't hope to convert them—where they are they are incurable, and if brought over would be worthless—I can easily satisfy you that Congress can take no cognizance of any personal imputation upon you, or of a difference between you and the Minister, and that appealing to them, can only keep up the idea, among your opponents, that your object is to create parties and confusion, or to compel the country to a war, which there is no difficulty in proving it was both an object of your country and your own personal wish to avoid. No censure can follow from declining to fulfill an incautious engagement to print—besides I am persuaded that part of the instructions, ought upon no account to be printed, or generally known, and you will understand on this head more than I need write.

It is unavoidable that Congress must discuss the political relations of the two countries, and that discussion inevitably calls for information, which

looses half its effect by being obtruded at present. The breach between you and the President may by a little moderation, be entirely closed—I fear a publication would render it irreparable—there is a total impossibility of persuading the Americans that he can have erred intentionally—his vast services have hedged him about with such a divinity (I am told you read Shakspeare) that he is, and will forever remain, unapproachable to any personal attack—On this subject we all think alike, and the change of the opinion is unpleasant, in idea, for us, and utterly hopeless for you to effect if you even wished it—the distance and the difference of those about him is immense—they have misled this country and injured yours as I think. Spare them not—while they are your game, the public will soon become impartial and you have all the arguments, all the decisions, and what even the unthinking are influenced by, all the success in your favor—the arts which created the clamor are sinking fast, I hope, into contempt—My advice to you must be sincere, for my vanity would be infinitely gratified, in showing that I could nearly imitate in my language, the force and elegance with which you have expressed yourself in yours.

Accept my respects,

J. MARTIN.

NOTE TO ABOVE—A Power separated from Europe by 2,000 Leagues—which has given itself up with frantic passion to maritime commerce, whose coasts are extensive and unprotected, is necessarily controlled by whatever power is strongest on the Ocean—to this first cause of the influence of England in America are joined some secondary ones, such as corruption, the affinities of the Government, the intrigues of the English Merchants. It results from this that the English are conciliated and respected, because they fear them—and the French are sacrificed—outraged, because they do not fear

them—Our democratic and economical principles were the only arm with which it was in our power to attack the English influences here, by attracting the attention of the people exclusively, to agriculture. By leading them to regard the Merchants and the British factors here, as the enemies of their liberties, the ties between the two countries are destroyed.

Genet to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Phila., August 5th, 1793,
Year 2nd of the Republic.

Citizen Minister :

The merchant Captains of Baltimore having informed me, that they were about to send a vessel to France, I profit by this opportunity to send you some duplicates of some of my most important dispatches, and of the reports made to me by Citizens Cassan and Thomas, whom I sent to the squadron at Norfolk, as well as those of the Admirals. These will give you an idea of the difficulties I had to surmount, to reorganize or rather to regenerate the naval forces of the Republic. Still I hope to succeed. I am at the moment of departure for New York, where they are awaiting me with impatience.

When I reached Philadelphia, three thousand citizens came out to meet me, while three hundred merchants mostly English went to thank the President of the United States, for his proclamation of Neutrality. Never has public opinion been more marked. Washington has been profoundly wounded by it. It was the next day that I had my first audience. The friend and counsellor of La Fayette, answered my frank and loyal overtures

only in a diplomatic language, from which nothing resulted, that appears to me to be worth transmitting to you—he only spoke of the desire, that according to him, the United States had to live in peace and good will with all the powers, and particularly with France, and he avoided touching upon anything, that might relate to our Revolution or to the war we are sustaining alone against the enemies of mankind.

Jefferson, Secretary of State, at the beginning, appeared to me to be the most disposed to second our views. He gave me some useful notions concerning the men in place, and did not conceal from me, that Senator Morris and Hamilton Secretary of the Treasury, attached to the interests of Great Britain, had the greatest influence over the mind of the President; and it was with difficulty that he counterbalanced their efforts. He did more, he published in the papers over the signature of Veritas, three letters against the system of these gentlemen. Still, I have remarked in his official declarations a sort of restraint, that has convinced me that this man wished to keep himself in a position to retain his place, whatever might be the issue of events. In fact, scarcely had the news of the infamous defection of Dumouriez and of the reverses which resulted from it, reached here, scarcely had the revolution of St. Domingo spread terror, among all the owners of slaves, than I saw him weaken from day to day, and render himself the passive instrument of a party that detests him. Then, seeing myself deserted by the Minister on whom we had most reason to rely—seeing that the Minister of England was drawing closer to the President—that Talon, that Noailles, the agent of the pretended Regent of France, was received at the house of Morris and of Hamilton, and was even received at the house of the President, seeing that all of the decisions of the Federal Government were against us, that everything tended to annul

the effect of our treaties, I took the only course that could be taken, I surrounded myself with the most pronounced Republicans, and I found in the local governments, in the State tribunals, in the juries of the people, in the Democratic societies that formed in a moment from North to South, after the example of our own; in the anti-Federal journals, in all good citizens, among all men more attached to the real interest of America, than to the interests of the merchants, in all the Militia corps, the most energetic support. In spite of the proclamation of the Federal Government, fourteen Privateers, mounting among them 120 cannon, loaded with Americans, sailed out from all the seaports and took from our enemies more than 80 vessels richly loaded. Despite the decisions of the Federal Government, the Admiralty Tribunals of many States, faithful to our treaties, have respected the exclusive right of our consuls to take cognizance of all that concerns prizes. Despite the anathemas pronounced by Washington and his Federal Judges against all Americans, who took part in our war, the juries acquitted every one who had been arrested, amidst the acclamation of the people. Despite the Federal Government, the Pennsylvania Militia assembled on the 14th of July, and swore to regard as a traitor, every man who did not feel the necessity of maintaining our treaties of commerce and alliance. The tenth of August and the 21st of September have been equally celebrated by the people in all the States as national holidays and the tri-colored cocarde was placed on every hat beside that of America. Then Washington and his adherents excited by Talon who has become their adviser, and by the Minister of England, did me the honor to attribute to me the successes, (which were only due to the principles that I have embraced,) persuaded themselves that my ruin, might retard their ruin—all their batteries were in consequence directed against me. Their

Gazetts have spread abroad that I was violating the laws, and the constitution of the country, and that I had threatened the President to appeal to the people from his decisions. Two men sold for a long time to the British, Jay and King, the first a federal judge, believed that it would do me a great deal of harm, by their certifying to it; but that imposture instead of striking me, fell back upon themselves. They could not prove what they had advanced, and the people of New York, at the very instant that they sought to give them the most unfavorable impression, gave me the most brilliant reception, and assured me in the address that you will find attached to this dispatch, that their wish was, that I might continue a long time to fulfill with the same energy, the functions that were confided to me. My answer, of which you will also find a copy, proved my sensibility, and convinced them, that the intention of the Republic was not, as they were trying to persuade them, *to draw them into the war*, but to cause them to take an attitude, worthy of a free people. This last mark of the esteem of the Americans, finished the irritation of Washington against me; the libels of his partisans were multiplied, and finally, and to end the absurd polemic, I wrote him the letter joined to this, in which he answered me through Mr. Jefferson, a President of the United States being too exalted, according to him, to correspond with the agent of another nation. I immediately caused these two letters to be printed, they produced the best effect, all the popular societies applauded my courage; but passion seized the soul of Washington, and he charged the counter revolutionist Morris, to demand my recall by the Council, and threatened our consuls to interdict them, if they continued to authorize the sale of our prizes, and to protest against the tribunals, that wished to take it to themselves.

Mr. Jefferson sent me a copy of that denunciation, which you must have received, and I confine myself, for my justification, Citizen Minister to place before you the answer that I made to it. I also made that of the Consuls, to the outrageous menaces that were intimated to them. Not having for a moment overstepped the line of our duty—not having undertaken anything that was not conformable to the treaties, and to the laws of the United States, we have unanimously agreed to demand from Congress through the Executive, that an enquiry be made of the chief accusations brought against us and of the conduct of the Federal Government. Our friends wish it, with as much impatience as our enemies fear it, and I am persuaded that the French Republic will approve that step. It will unveil some men who cloak themselves with the mantle of federation to reach a monarchy, and it will accelerate the fall of a crowd of intriguers, who have no other object in view than to deliver their country to England, to establish here a form of government absolutely similar to theirs, and to expel both equality and French Republicans from this sacred land of liberty. I declare to the Council Citizen Minister, America is lost to France, if the expurgatory fire of our revolution does not penetrate her bosom. The men who brought about the revolution of 1775 have been shut out from almost every employment by the faction that controls, and that faction is composed solely of former torys, of English aristocrats, naturalized after the war; and of ambitious or greedy men, in whom the fever of pride and thirst to regain what they have lost, has made them forget, that they only exist through the people and that they should only strive for their welfare. We have nothing to expect from them. They do not want either our principles or our alliance. Let us march on then, with firmness in the career that I have opened, and if you believe it of use to sacrifice me to Washington, at least send

in my place, a minister who will not, abandon Republicanism, the sincere friends of liberty, of equality, of France.

The following reports Citizen Minister answer all the letters that you have written me up to and including No. 12 and present you with all the details that you could wish in regard to my mission. I have partly divided them in this way.

1. The direct relations I have had with the American People; the civic fetes that have been given me; those which took place at the most remarkable epoch of our Revolution; the best writings that have been published in the American Journals for and against our rights and our political interests; and the deliberation of many popular societies among others that of Charlestown.

2. My correspondence with the American Government relative to the Prizes of the armed vessels, in progress, and to the arbitrary decisions of the Federal Government upon the treaties whose meaning could not be changed in any respect.

3. The complaints I have made to the American Government, upon the insults offered to the American Flag by the English, and the motives that Mr. Jefferson alleged, for not sustaining by force of arms the rights of Neutrals, in the face of that Nation which has always seen proper to violate them.

4. My different reports upon the negotiation that I have carried on with the Federal Government, relative to the reimbursement of the debt due by the United States to France, as also other special reports upon the provisions for France and her colonies with which I have been charged.

5. The different notes that I have presented to the Federal Government in transmitting to it the decrees relative to the favors granted to American Commerce by the National Convention, and to the conduct of the armed vessels of France, in respect to neutrals. I have joined to these notes some general views upon American Commerce.

6. Different reports relative to the affairs of St. Domingo, the projects of the colonies and of Galbaud, and of the means I have employed to defeat them.

7. A tableau of the present situation of all the colonies of the Republic, both windward and leeward.

8. My general report upon the insurrection that has broken out upon the vessels of the Republic in the harbor of New York, particularly on board the Jupiter; upon the means I have taken to reorganize these forces; and the new conspiracy of Galbaud, and his flight to Canada, (where it is said he now is) after he found that he was discovered; and upon the measures I have taken to prevent this wicked man, and his accomplices, from consummating, their treason, and completing the ruin of St. Domingo.

9. A particular report upon the convoy from St. Domingo which has taken refuge in the ports of the U. S. The majority of the captains want to winter here; while awaiting a more considerable force than has been destined to escort them. I have not yet entirely yielded to their wishes.

10. The plan of operations, that under my instructions, the naval forces of the Republic in America have undertaken, to restore to us the possession of the fisheries of Newfoundland, to destroy that of the English, to intercept their convoys from Canada and from the bay of New York; sound the disposition of our brothers of Acadia; make the conquest of Florida, and operate on the coasts of Louisiana; diversion favorable to the operations that the Illinoisians and Kentuckians are about to begin from the north, with a view to breaking the chains that bind the inhabitants of that unfortunate country always attached to France.

10. My general and special reports upon the consulates; upon their organization; the work that I have confided to the zeal of the citizens who fulfill

them and the affairs that concern them individually.

11. Many communications made to the American Government and to some private persons of the different decrees of the National Convention and other pieces.

11. The information that has been required from me upon the family of Genl. Eustace, and a contagious malady that is ravaging Philadelphia, for six weeks past, and which has turned it into an immense desert. Everyone fled; the Federal Government has disappeared; and nobody knows where the Congress will hold its session, if this calamity does not come to an end shortly.

12. Finally duplicates of many dispatches and reports that I have sent to you by different opportunities.

This Citizen-Minister is the account that I owe to my country of the mission with which it has charged me. As affairs here are likely to become more important from day to day, I intend to turn my attention to the necessity of establishing some system of advice boats, which will carry to you more promptly and regularly news of our political, military and administrative operations. With this view I have already made the acquisition of many little vessels, fine sailers, that some American citizens had bought under our authorization. It was just to indemnify them, since the Federal Government, has suspended by its decisions, the exercise of the right we have to arm in their ports.

I have the honor Citizen-Minister, &c., &c.,

GENET.





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